Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme.

9. Depreciation on Computer @ 60% per annum.

10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @ 0%.

11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)

15. Exemption on income from dividends on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small & medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

Agenda for IT Governance

569. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed Information Technology Managers to set up a high level committee to prepare a transparent, efficient agenda for governance including methods to automate Government citizen interface;

(b) if so, the details of the directives given by Government in this regard and implications thereof;

(c) the details of follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) what is the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

News-item regarding TU's bargaining right affected by Globalisation ILO

570. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "TU's bargaining right affected by globalisation: ILO" which appeared in 'Economic Times' (New Delhi) dated 8th June, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The International Labour Conference in June, 2000 considered the first Global Report based on the follow up of the ILO Declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work. The report entitled 'Your voice at Work' was on the Principle governing freedom of association and collective bargaining. The right to freedom of association and collective bargaining envisaged under ILO Convention Nos. 87 and 98 are by and large available to workers in India. However, the relevant Conventions could not be ratified by India so far because of reasonable restrictions imposed on government servants.

Less Interest on ESIC Funds

571. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ESIC would be getting less interest on their funds due to new Government policies;

(b) what was the background behind the reduction in interest